

## Brookshire's Grocery Company Uses

# K-Flex Clad™ AL

K-Flex Elastomeric Insulation  
with Aluminum Laminated to  
Polypropylene Cladding



**K-FLEX USA**

Brookshire's Grocery located in Tyler, TX has found a new solution for pipe insulation in K-Flex Clad™ AL manufactured by K-Flex USA. This mid-south grocery chain with approximately 160 stores total, recently installed K-Flex Clad™ AL at two of its larger stores in Louisiana and has been pleased with the results.

While many grocery stores install refrigeration condensers and piping in equipment rooms and piping inside the store, Brookshire's installs condensers and piping on the store roof, thereby allowing for shorter pipe runs and easy access.

Insulation is extremely important for refrigerant piping to control condensation and to maintain the temperature of the return gas in the system. Insulation also greatly improves the efficiency, capacity and service life of the equipment. So whether inside or on the roof, the copper piping must be well insulated.

The original elastomeric insulation used to insulate these pipes failed very quickly from exposure to weather elements. To address this problem, Brookshire's engineers first tried using a coating to protect the elastomeric insulation. This extended the insulation's life, but still failed over time. Birds were another force of nature destroying the insulation as they pecked the material from the pipes. "We tried several insulation products and they all failed. It's not just UV, the varmints have a field day attacking the insulation taking out big chunks, especially during nesting season," said Mike Gregory, Brookshire's Facility Refrigeration Manager

Any failures in the insulation on these pipes create a tremendous loss in efficiency. Ice forms on the exposed sections of the copper pipes and can cause deformation of the copper and pipe failure. Therefore, a more durable protection for the insulation was necessary to combat the issues Brookshire's was facing.



Project Type	<b>Grocery Store</b>
Engineer	<b>Brookshire's Grocery Co. Tyler, TX</b>
Insulation Distributor	<b>Ed's Supply El Dorado, AR</b>

Ed's Supply, Brookshire's local wholesaler in El Dorado, AR, was familiar with the problems the grocery chain was having with the elastomeric insulation and recognized the potential of K-Flex Clad™ AL as a solution.

K-Flex Clad™ AL elastomeric insulation with a factory-applied jacketing comprised of a composite of polypropylene, aluminum and a mylar film was their solution. The aluminum cladding makes the product resistant to abuse, impact, UV rays and is easy to clean. K-Flex Clad™ AL is an ideal insulation choice for both outdoor and equipment room applications.

**"K-Flex Clad™ AL is an innovative solution to outdoor weathering insulation problems"**

— Jeff Lowery, Refrigeration Foreman for Brookshire's Eastern Division.



# K-Flex Clad™ AL – The Outdoor Insulation Solution

**“K-Flex Clad™ AL Clad has excellent appearance. It’s the best thing to hit the industry in years”**

– Mike Gregory, Refrigeration Engineer for Brookshire’s Grocery.



Brookshire’s found the K-Flex Clad™ AL, which is pre-slitted and pre-glued for easy installation, to be easy to work with. After gluing the butt joints with contact adhesive, the joints were finished with K-Flex Clad™ AL tape or silicone sealant.

While Brookshire’s engineers were initially concerned that 3-foot lengths of K-Flex Clad™ AL would increase the number of butt joints, after installing the product the team reported that the 3-foot sections were easier to handle and actually work better than 6-foot sections.

“K-Flex Clad™ AL is an innovative solution to outdoor weathering insulation problems,” said Jeff Lowery, Refrigeration Foreman for Brookshire’s Eastern Division.

Brookshire’s has been satisfied with the installation, appearance and performance of the K-Flex Clad™ AL product. The company plans to use K-Flex Clad™ AL in all new installations and retro fit jobs where they have outdoor refrigerant piping.

As Brookshire’s has found, K-Flex Clad™ AL is the solution for outdoor pipe insulation needs.

“We are all responsible for the carbon foot print for our facilities,” stated Mike Gregory “We need to use insulation materials that last. K-Flex Clad™ AL has excellent appearance. It’s the best thing to hit the industry in years.”



## K-Flex Clad™ AL Features and Benefits:

- Suitable for outdoor use
- One-piece construction
- No double handling of material
- Quick installation
- Unique lap closure system on tubular products
- 3’ lengths for easy handling
- Damage/dent resistance
- Moisture resistant
- Mold & mildew resistant
- Fiber-free & non-dusting
- Simple field repair
- Improved system integrity
- Improved life cycle cost

**AL Clad is the winner of the 2006 European Innovation Award.**



For more information on K-Flex Clad™, please contact our Insulation Product Sales Center at 800-765-6475.



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